Trade concession offered by Pakistan

625. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan had granted duty concession on over 600 items to India and other SAARC countries under the South Asia Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA);

(b) if so, the names of these items together with the duty concession given on each; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to these concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) The SAARC member countries exchange tariff concessions with each other under the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA). Pakistan also grants concessions to SAARC member countries including India under SAPTA. These concessions are given the legal cover by issuance of related Customs Notification, which Pakistan had done earlier *vide* notification dated the 17th June, 2000. With the changes in the Harmonised Coding System in 2002, a number of H.S. Codes have either been deleted, merged or changed, necessitating re-vamping of the said Customs Notification. It is for this reason that a revised Customs Notification dated the 15th June, 2002 has been issued by the Government of Pakistan which covers the concessions already available to SAARC member countries, and there is no change in the rates of preferential duty concessions.

Benefits for organised industrial sector

626. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the organised industrial sector has been benefited from the globalisation;

(b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if not, in what manner Government propose to move on the Second Generation Reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Globalisation has favourably impacted